

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

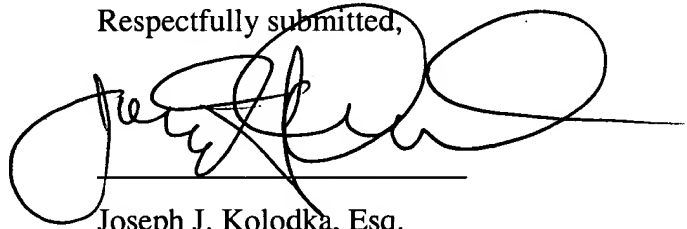
New claim 11 is originally filed Claim 2 and its intervening base claim, claim 1, indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 12 is based on original claim 6 and on claim 2 defining the transfer function.

Claims 1 and 3-10 have been rejected as being either anticipated by Kakuishi, 35 USC 102(b), or obvious over Kakuishi in view of well known prior art, 35 USC 103(a). The applicant contends that the simplified signal level matching as claimed, in claims 1 and 6, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the more complex two-wire to four-wire converting circuit detailed in Kakuishi. More specifically, Kakuishi is concerned with the problem of echo return cancellation which would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to devise more simplified signal level matching between signals exchanged in a communications network, as claimed in claims 1 and 6.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions or other matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below. Any fees due and owing should be charged to deposit account no. 07-0832

5 November 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph J. Kolodka', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph J. Kolodka, Esq.

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